

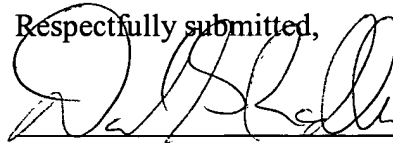
Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, and 6, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 5. Claims 3 and 5 are being amended. In view of the above amendments, issuance of a Notice of Allowability for claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, "the nominal thread size" in claim 3 and "said outer thread section" in claim 5 lack antecedent basis. Claims 3 and 5 are being amended to provide the required antecedent basis for the cited phrases. In view of the above amendments to claims 3 and 5, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 have been allowed, claims 3 and 5 are being amended to provide antecedent basis for the cited phrases. In view of the amendments to claims 3 and 5, Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability for claims 1-6. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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